

## FRESH AIR FUND BOON TO 9,376 CHILDREN

Thanksgiving Day Means More to That Number Because of Tribune's Efficient Charity.

COST OF WORK, \$47,930.48

This Sum and More Contributed by 1,300 Persons Who Never Lent Support Before—22 New Vacation Centres.

The Tribune Fresh Air Fund, during the summer of 1911, provided country vacations of a fortnight each for 9,376 children.

These children, without exception, came from the congested tenement districts of New York. In choosing them, no discrimination was made as to race or religion. Rather the benefits of the season were distributed freely to Jew and Gentile, to Protestant and Catholic, to Italian, Russian, American and Armenian without distinction.

Philanthropy frequently finds it wise in dealing with adults to distinguish between the deserving and the undeserving poor. But the Tribune Fund recognizes no such problem as far as its beneficiaries are concerned, for children are the victims, not the masters, of circumstances; and usually the offspring of undeserving parents is more to be pitied than the offspring of the deserving. Manifest need of the benefits at the command of the Tribune Fund was the only requirement demanded of those who asked for a share in them.

To accommodate the army of Fresh Air children there were maintained in connection with the work of the fund fourteen Fresh Air homes. At these 522 girls and boys were cared for. The remaining 4,653 youngsters were entertained by kind hosts who opened warm hearts and pleasant country homes to the needy little dwellers in the city's bowers.

To the greater number of these children the most barren field of the countryside would have been, by contrast with their sordid homes and surroundings, a haven of sweet delight. It was not, however, amid barren fields that they were entertained.

They were invited to hobnob with nature in the garden spots of the world, and gained new outlooks upon life amid the cool shades of the Green Mountains among the awe-inspiring formations of the Catskills, in the Adirondacks and the Alleghenies, along the picturesque banks of the Susquehanna, the Delaware and the Hudson, and in many another place where the air was sweet and the grass was green.

### Hospitality's Wide Area.

The Fresh Air territory of 1911 extended over New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. In all, 115 cities, towns and villages acted as Fresh Air centres and extended the liberty of their surrounding fields and woods and streams to parties of children varying in number from ten to three hundred and fifty. Of these places Binghamton, N. Y., entertained the largest single party. Pittsfield, Mass., however, received and entertained six parties of seventy-five each, and Utica, N. Y., five parties of fifty each, while Cortland, Auburn and Delhi, N. Y., each received a party of one hundred or more.

To make it possible for the Tribune Fund to accomplish its season's work, a generous public contributed \$17,556.30 to its resources, the second largest sum contributed in the thirty-five years of the fund's existence.

The list of the contributors to the support of the Fresh Air crusade is, in fact, the best indication of the breadth of its appeal.

At one end of this list stands the name of a boy of five years who for two weeks saved his pennies and ran errands in order to send a contribution of 37 cents to the vacation fund. At the other end appear the names of men and women noted for the greatness of their philanthropic enterprises, who gave their hundreds or their thousands to the Fresh Air cause.

Not were the givers confined to any one section. There were contributions from London from Paris, from German watering places, from Texas, from California and almost every other state in the Union. A member of the Canadian House of Commons, who may or may not have favored commercial reciprocity between the two great North American cousins, put himself on record as heartily in favor of the reciprocity of charity by sending a substantial check toward the relief of New York's poor children.

The chronicle of the Tribune Fund has been one of continuous progress and growth in benefits conferred and influence exerted. That this is true is, of course, due to the fact that each succeeding year has interested new hearts in its work.

Several facts give evidence that interest in Fresh Air work was never wider or deeper than in 1911. Among this evidence is the fact that during the season just closed twenty-two villages had never before manifested an interest in this sort of philanthropy invited and received parties aggregating 408 children. Even more striking than this is the fact that there were received in 1911 contributions to the fund from thirteen hundred persons who had never before given in support of this work. The sum received from these new contributors was more than \$15,000.

One of the things upon which the Tribune Fund has each year to congratulate itself is the character of the attendants at its homes who make it possible for the Fresh Air work to be something higher and better than the mere providing of fresh air and country life for city children. As in the past, so this year these attendants were drawn almost entirely from the ranks of college students and school teachers. More than one-half of this year's staff had served in previous years and thus brought to the work the efficiency which only experience can give.

Director's Death Great Loss.

Amid the successes of the year the Tribune Fresh Air Fund suffered one irreparable loss in the death of the man who for five years had so ably directed its activities, the Rev. Dr. John Bancroft Devins. No man ever brought to his work a heart more devoted nor a genius better adapted to its requirements than did this truly great man. Taking hold of the Fresh Air work at the point where his predecessor, the Rev. Willard Parsons, had left it, he continued and augmented its success.

What executive ability he combined with his greatness of heart, the things that are peculiarly his in the work show. He found the Tribune Fund a great organization for sending children to the country, but he was not content to continue it with that one aim. He felt that there were to be found among the multitudes of the poor little children whose parents were deserving of special attention. Starting with this idea he was led by a careful study of conditions to institute what might be called a policy of specialization. The result of this was the establishment of the home for undernourished children at Shokan, the homes for convalescents at Middletown and Deposit, and the homes for older girls and boys at Chapel Hill and Bethany.

The point to which above all others however, Dr. Devins directed his attention was the increasing of the revenue of the Fund. He so systematized this matter that during each year of his incumbency the number of contributors went up by leaps and bounds. It is sufficient to say in this regard that in five years the number of people giving annually to the cause which lay so near the heart of the great leader has been increased from 891 to 3,390.

Dr. Devins left behind him a host of friends in all walks of life, but especially thousands upon thousands of little friends among the children of the crowded tenement houses. They had seen him in the character which suited him best and had learned to love him. For years to come his

will be a name to conjure with among the rising generation of the East Side.

The annual statistical report is as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Receipt of balance from the Tribune	\$56,37
Fresh Air Fund, season of 1910	43,689.93
Contributions duly acknowledged in	
The Tribune	4,266.00
Special contribution to the Tribune	
Fresh Air Fund	
Total	\$47,930.48

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EXPENDITURES.	
Wages of advance agents	
In securing invitations to the country for children	
Wages of assistants in investigating and preparing children for the country	
Wages of medical attendants	
Physicians' bills in country homes of care-takers	
Wages of caretakers at	
Middlebury, N. Y., North Bennington, Vt., and Ramsey, N. J.	
Wages of employees who were shared by local churches and individuals	
Board of children	
Wages of which was contributed for this specific purpose	
Total	1,351.56
Ashford Hill, N. Y.	151.69
Blankbooks, printing, stationery, etc.	1,454.02
Postage	1,959.74
Traveling expenses of 9,376 children and 553 adults (a total of 9,929 persons)	17,100.22
Employees	47,930.48
Balance on hand	\$25.82

New York, November 29, 1911.

We, the undersigned, find upon examination of the books and accounts of the Tribune Fresh Air Fund, that the sum of \$47,930.48 has been received during the season of 1911, which includes the balance of \$47,364.30 brought over from the season of 1910, and \$1,454.02 a special contribution to the Fresh Air homes, and that the expenses have been \$47,930.48, according to statements and vouchers submitted to us by the trustees managing the fund, leaving the balance on hand of \$25.82.

"It must not be thought that no progress has been made," said Borough President McAneny, who, with Controller Prendergast and President Mitchel of the Board of Aldermen, is one of the special committee of the Board of Estimate, yesterday. "Since the passage of the Stillwell Bill, which gives the Board of Estimate six months in which to select a site, we have had three conferences on the subject.

"These conferences have been attended by the members of the committee, Judge Morgan J. O'Brien, chairman of the Courthouse Commission; Grant LaFarge, representing the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; Job Hedges, representing various civic bodies; A. S. Bard, of the Bar Association, and John D. W. Warner, of the New York County Lawyers' Association.

"While I cannot say that we have reached a tentative agreement on a site, we have got so far as to reduce the selection to one of four or five sites between Canal and Chambers streets and east of Broadway. There are many considerations to be thought of, and the problem requires the most careful treatment.

"Our committee of the Board of Estimate is the same that had charge of the budget, and we planned to devote our time to the courthouse site as soon as the budget was out of the way. Since that time, however, Controller Prendergast has been in the South, attending the bankers' convention. He returned to-day and we are going to get right down to business on the site next week. We expect to have some results for the public soon."

President McAneny said that the architects who are interested in the new building from a professional point of view had gone so far as to make landscape maps of the sites under consideration, which have been of the greatest assistance in weighing the advantages of the various plots of ground.

The Board of Estimate has, under the Stillwell Bill, six months from October 12 in which to select a site, but they have no intention of taking advantage of the extended time. After the special committee has reported to the board the matter of securing the property must be taken before the Sinking Fund Commission. It is thought probable that the property selected will have to be acquired by condemnation, as the area under consideration is so limited that it would be impossible to get the property at private sale at anything like fair prices.

The work of selecting a design for the new building will fall to the Courthouse Commission. This will take some time, and unless the site is selected soon it may be another year before ground can be broken for the new building. In the meantime work of the Supreme Court is being more and more hampered for lack of suitable quarters. The Justices hardly know where to make room for Henry D. Hotchkiss, who on January 1 will take his seat as an additional justice.

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